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## Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

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## **Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update**

*By David McCartney, University of Iowa*

Here is a question with much to consider: what global archives-related issue would you like to resolve, if you had the authority, power, or blue sky to do so?

The subject came up among some colleagues during a break between sessions at MAC's Annual Meeting held in Lexington, Kentucky, in May. My reflexive response—which I blurted out without considering more carefully—was simple and uninspiring: “I want everything digitized and accessible,” or words to that effect. Because it's all about me, right?

While we naturally think of the immediate, tangible projects that affect collections under our stewardship, the question opens up countless avenues of thought and discussion that extend beyond the walls of our repositories. Here are some challenges that come to mind:

- Ensuring the security and integrity of records that document human rights violations
- Building trust with historically underrepresented communities to ensure that their experiences are part of the historical record
- Elevating the status of the archival profession

Indeed, issues like these are not completely beyond our grasp. Many of our colleagues do the good work and address such challenges daily, and they inspire me to attempt to do the same.

What far-reaching archives-related issue would you like to resolve, and why?

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A successful Annual Meeting in Lexington! Many thanks to Local Arrangements Committee Cochairs Heather Fox and Deirdre Scaggs, and Program Committee Cochairs Stephanie Bricking and Lisa Sjoberg, along with their respective committee members, for all their hard work. Looking ahead:

### **Fall Symposium, “Hard Skills for Managing Digital Collections in Archives,” Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 17–19, 2015**

Bertram Lyons and Joshua M. Ranger, both of AVPre-serve, will lead this two-day seminar, a practical, hands-on experience designed to help us sort through the current

and continuing challenges of electronic records. The symposium will be held at the historic Depot Renaissance Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Lyons is a senior consultant for AVPre-serve and archivist and digital assets manager of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress; Ranger is also a senior consultant with AVPre-serve, where he leads collection assessment and inventory projects. Topics will include using open source tools to help manage datasets, setting up basic digital preservation workflows, and using spreadsheets to manage digital content. Ann Kenne and Daardi Sizemore are cochairs of the Symposium Organizing Committee. Registration information will be online soon at [midwestarchives.org](http://midwestarchives.org).

### **2016 Annual Meeting, “Archives Fest,” Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 27–30, 2016**

MAC returns to Milwaukee for the Annual Meeting next year at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. If you and perhaps a colleague are kicking around an idea for a session, please submit your proposal to the Program Committee, cochaired by Colleen McFarland Rademaker and Amy Cooper Cary. A call for session proposals will go out late this summer or early fall; details will be on MAC's website. The Local Arrangements Committee, cochaired by Anna Stadick and Michael Doylen, is already planning a terrific set of tours and a reception for members and guests.

### **2016 Fall Symposium, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

Copyright law and its implications for archives and special collections will be the topic of this informative symposium to be held in Ann Arbor. Melissa Levine, lead copyright officer at the University of Michigan, and Aprille McKay, lead archivist for University of Michigan Collection Development at the Bentley Historical Library, will lead this program. Watch for the date and other details in the time ahead.

### **2017 Annual Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska**

MAC heads to Omaha in 2017, and we're already looking forward to a meeting that will bring us to the Old Market District downtown. Join us for some fine Nebraska hospitality! Date and venue details are being worked out at press time.